Canadian Heritage Patrimoine canadien

Canada

News Release ~ Communiqué

Bar U Ranch Historic Site Grand Opening Ceremony

Longview, Alberta, July 30, 1995 - In a celebration, reminiscent of a time gone by, Canadian Heritage's newest national historic site was officially opened. The Bar U Ranch National Historic Site, located in the heart of Alberta's ranching country, held its Grand Opening today.

The Bar U Ranch National Historic Site commemorates the history and importance of ranching in Canada and the role of the Bar U Ranch in that industry. The Ranch was acquired by Parks Canada in December of 1991.

The first phase of the work being done at the Site includes the opening of the Visitor Centre. This milestone will allow visitors to enjoy and learn more about this important part of Canada's past, while watching further development continue at the site.

The centre houses a food service, interpretive display area, theatre and gift shop which will be jointly operated by Parks Canada and the Friends of the Bar U Historic Ranch Association. The site will be open daily from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. until Labour Day with reduced hours to 6 p.m. until Thanksgiving. Site tours, demonstrations of ranching practices and techniques and special events will be offered throughout the season.

By the year 2005, Alberta's centenary, the Bar U Ranch National Historic Site will convey the spirit of public and private enterprise, tenacity and adaptability, that was the foundation of Western Canada's ranching industry. The site will come alive with the sites, sounds and feel of a working ranch. A broad mix of visitor activities, presentation styles and media will create a "spirit of time and place".

The Grand Opening festivities included a pageant where actors, livestock and other authentic props re-enacted the rich history of the Ranch. Country and western entertainers, cowboy poets, wagon rides, a costume contest (1882-1920), children's games, North West Mounted Police escort and caravan and "Boardwalk Branding" were also part of the afternoon activities.

For more information:

Sylvia Haavisto
Superintendent
Bar U Ranch National Historic Site
Longview, Alberta
(403) 395-2212